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CC 96-45

MAR 19 1997

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Dear Chairman Hundt,

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act through its Universal Service Fund provisions mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

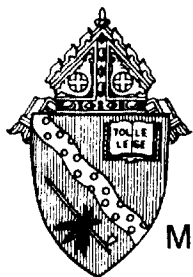
Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communication Commission a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service.

(2)

All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,
Kara Speckman
Mother of 3 from St.
Mary Nativity grade school
in Joliet, IL.



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

215 N. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3760
(616) 349-8714 FAX (616) 349-6440

CC96-45

March 5, 1997

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MAY 19 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Hundt:

We are writing to encourage your support of the recommendations of the Federal State Joint Board regarding how the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will be implemented. I urge your acceptance of the recommendations of the Joint Board regarding universal service.

Without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services will not be affordable to our twenty-five Catholic schools in southwest Michigan. Presently, our Catholic schools are lagging far behind our local public schools with regard to technology. Integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunication services and access for all classrooms. Internal wiring and Internet access provide the necessary link for classrooms to connect around the world.

On September 20, 1996, our Diocese hosted a technology inservice day for teachers. Our teachers are eager to move forward, but our schools lack the necessary financial means to meet the objectives of our schools' technology plans. Acceptance of the Joint Board's recommendations will assist some of our schools in their endeavor to advance every child in the area of technology. Discounted services are necessary to make this happen.

We urge you and the other FCC members to accept the recommendations of the Federal State Joint Board. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Frank C. Wippel

Frank C. Wippel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Sr. Constance Fifelski, O.P.

Sr. Constance Fifelski, O.P.
Associate Superintendent

FCW:gkb

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Independent School District 308
Nevis, Minnesota 56467

**A MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS SITE
A TOBACCO FREE SCHOOL**

218/652-3500 Fax: 218/652-3505
Email - mn0308dt@edu.gte.net

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Richard Magaard
Superintendent

Carol Collins
Principal

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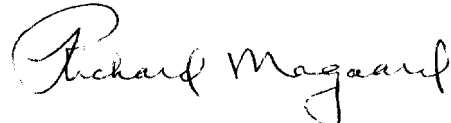
March 3, 1997

Dear Chairman Hundt:

This letter is in strong support for the consideration of "E-rate" discounts for school telecom access. Although schools are making significant investments in high technology, often times ongoing costs are overlooked and create a burden in the general operating fund. Any assistance in this area would be a significant factor in providing students with learning opportunities. Please provide your support for this endeavor.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard Magaard
Superintendent

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7720 Janes Avenue • Woodridge, IL 60517
(708) 985-2515

**The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054**

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for all schools public and private and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nations' people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As principal of a Catholic School, I must tell you that without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access these services may not be affordable for our school. Estimates that we have obtained from contractors, from volunteer parents in the communications field run in excess of \$150,000 to connect our classrooms and library to the Internet. In view of expenditures in our local public school district, this is a small amount, however for us, it is well beyond our budgetary means.

Please consider that Catholic schools are excluded from most local/state funded initiatives for the purchase of technology hardware and are significantly disadvantaged to begin with in terms of technology. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts. A statement that I can verify in my own district.

Our plans have been drawn, staff development has begun and the tedious task of raising funds is upon us. We need some help in meeting these costs and the Universal Service Fund provisions can provide it.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give school and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to our students and to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann D'Avant

Mary Ann Draudt
Principal

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March 4, 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20054

MAR 19 1997

Fed.

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is not doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

At St. John the Baptist Parochial School, in Silver Spring, Maryland, it is our understanding that the wiring cost could be additionally expensive because of asbestos removal requirements.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Ernan & Iriska McLane

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6096-45
SO. KOOCHICHING-RAINY RIVER DISTRICT #363

P.O. BOX 465
NORTHOME, MN 56661
218-897-5275

Northome School
Jerry Struss, Superintendent
Barbara Meidinger, Administrative Assistant

Indus School
Jerry Laird, Principal

March 11, 1997

EXPIRED OR LATE FILED

MAR 11 1997

Honorable Reed H. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt,

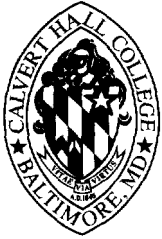
The purpose of this letter is to state my support for the recommendation of the Federal-State Joint Board on universal service for schools and libraries, and to urge you and the other members of the Federal Communications Commission, to adopt this recommendation. As superintendent of schools in a small, rural district in northern Minnesota, I have struggled with the fiscal demands technology has placed upon our district. The school district I work for maintains two K-12 buildings located approximately 80 miles apart. While both buildings have a LAN in place, the estimated costs of a T-1 line and internet access to both buildings appear prohibitive. If the E-Rate Plan is implemented, districts like ours will have our connectivity "fears" addressed.

My concerns are not unique. As I meet with my colleagues in northern Minnesota, many express the desire to connect their schools to the internet, but lack the financial resources to do so, on a sustained basis. Thank you for considering this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at Northome School.

Sincerely,


Jerry Struss

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CALVERT HALL COLLEGE

8102 LA SALLE ROAD ■ BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21286-8022 ■ (410) 825-4266 ■ FAX (410) 825-6826

March 7, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

RECEIVED
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Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a high school educator, I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

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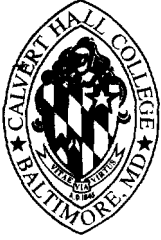
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Sincerely,

Brantley James D. Redman, Jr.

cc: Senator John McCain, Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

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Sincerely, *Mary Boudreau*

cc: Senator John McCain, Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

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